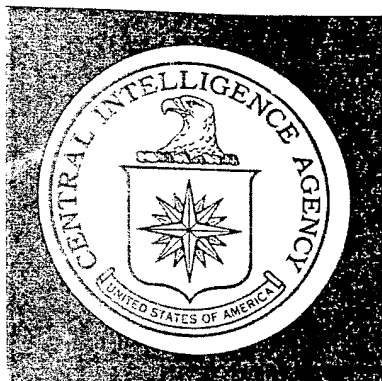


Pres

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DATE: AUG 2004

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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

WEEKLY SUMMARY

RETURN TO ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTER
IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE
JOB 79T927 BOX 63

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44

23 February 1968
No. 0008/68

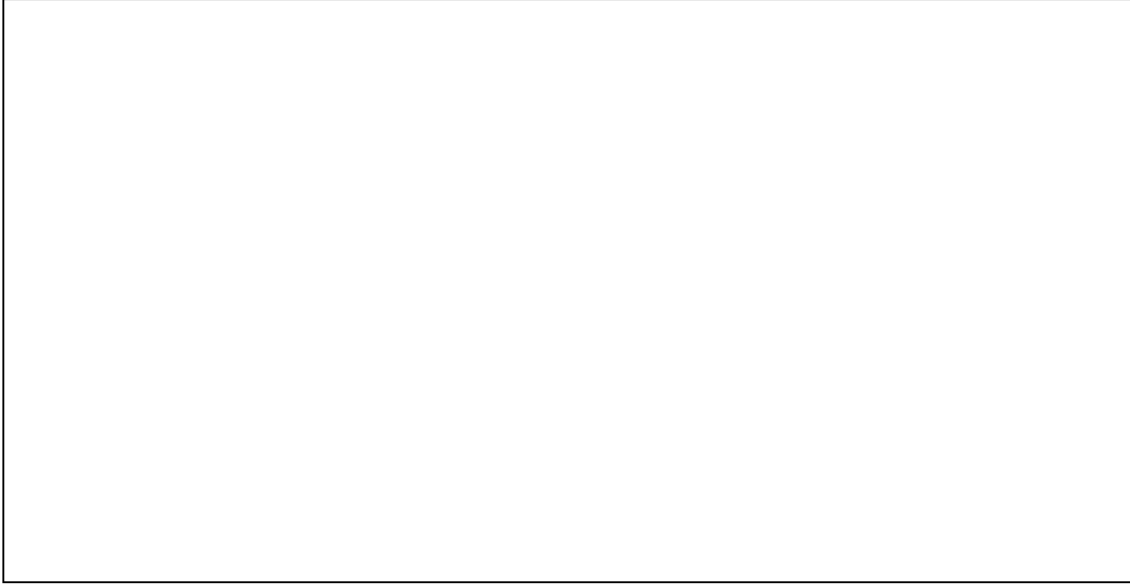
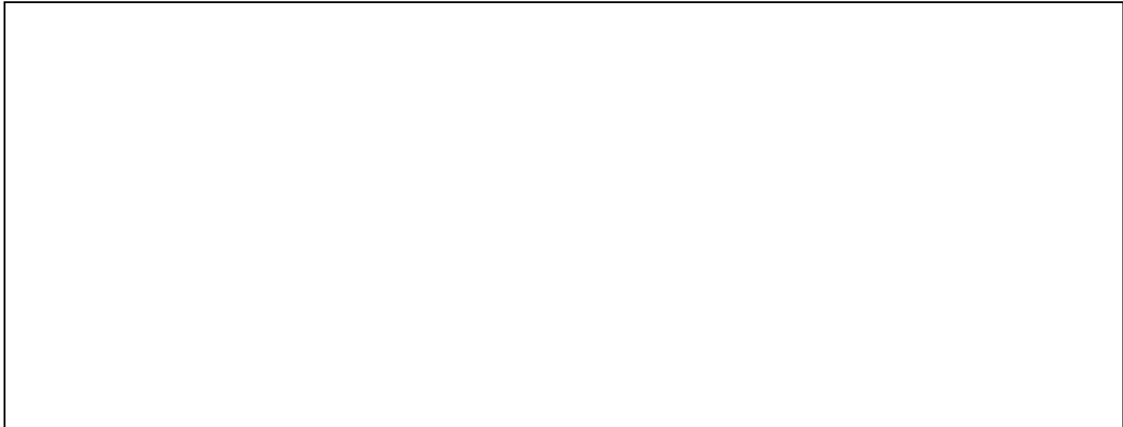
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C O N T E N T S

(Information as of noon EST, 21 February 1968)

Far East

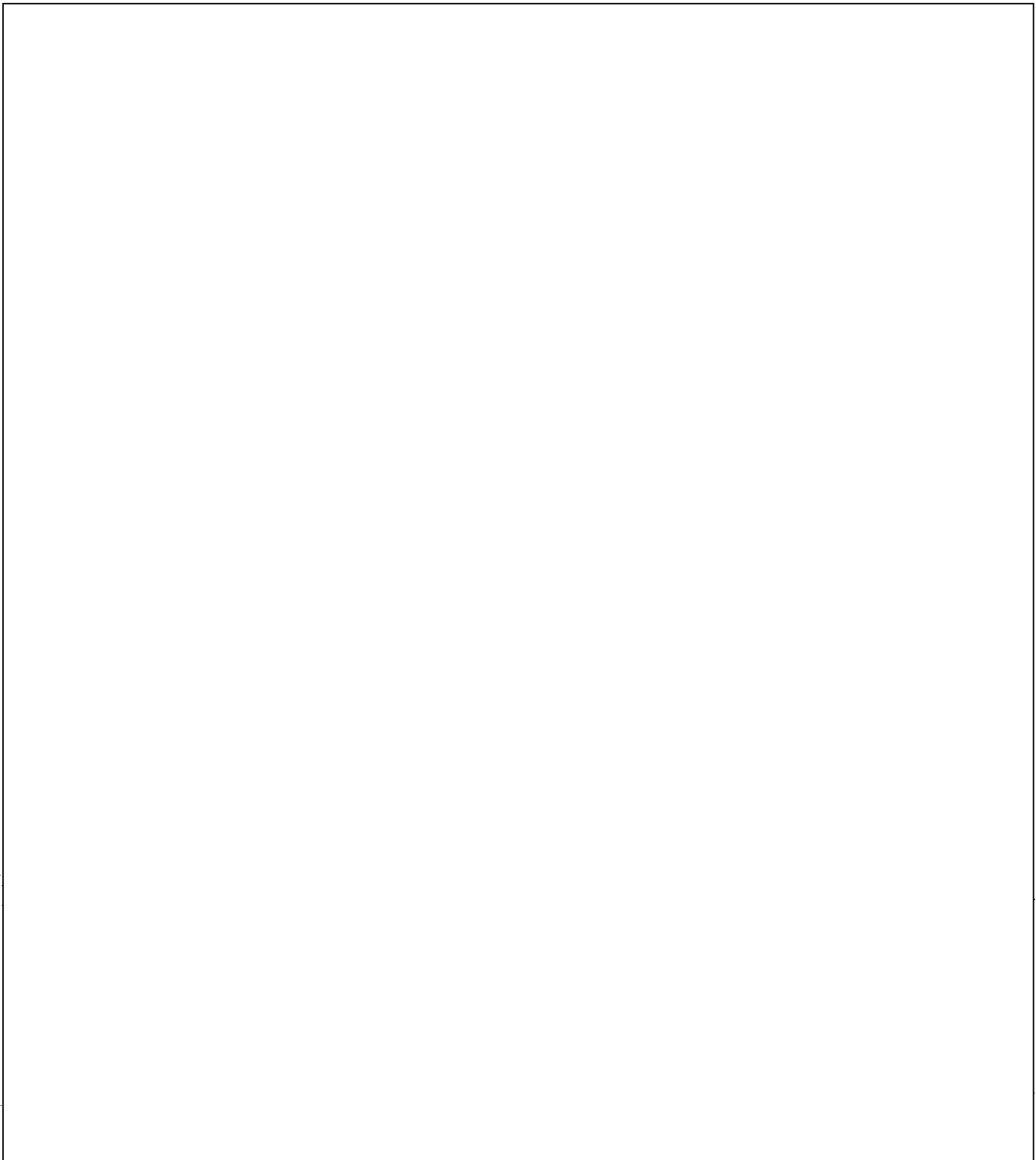
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PUEBLO IMPASSE UNBROKEN

The North Koreans continue to imply strongly that their handling of the Pueblo crew will be dependent in large part on US actions. They are clearly intent on using the crew as hostages to forestall US pressure and induce concessions.

General Pak Chung-kuk, the senior North Korean representative at Panmunjom, on 19 February warned that Pyongyang would carefully watch every future US move and cautioned the US to act "discreetly." He pointedly protested the US build-up since the Pueblo seizure and US plans to increase military assistance to South Korea.

In addition, during the past week various North Korean spokesmen have again warned that the crew may be punished in accordance with North Korean law.

In South Korea initial criticism of the Vance mission has given way to an official effort to play down differences with the US. Senior officials in Seoul now are apparently convinced that they must put the best possible face on the recent discussions.

The foreign minister, in contrast to an earlier lukewarm endorsement of the joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the mission, stated publicly on 17 February that the communiqué signified that there was complete accord between Seoul and Washington on what constituted an attack on South Korea.

There have been widespread press reports in Seoul of an imminent cabinet shake-up growing out of the North Korean attempt on President Pak's life last month and Seoul's unhappiness with US handling of the Pueblo incident. Those most likely to be removed by President Pak are reportedly the minister of defense, the minister of home affairs, and one economic minister. Any changes at this time, however, would be largely a face-saving gesture by Pak and probably would not foreshadow any change in South Korean policies.

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